

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tube retainer comprising:
a tube having an elongated external surface and a retention groove formed in and lying below ~~an~~ the elongated external surface, adjacent an open end[[,]] of ~~said~~ the tube, and
a holding clamp ~~adapted to engage said~~ configured as a flat plate having an aperture formed therein and a slot extending from the aperture without intersecting a periphery of the flat plate, wherein the slot is configured for engaging the retention groove.
2. (Original) A tube retainer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retention groove is annular.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) A tube retainer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tube further comprises a ~~second~~ sealing groove formed in the elongated external surface thereof interposed between the retention groove and the open end of the tube, wherein the sealing groove is adapted to receive sealing means.
6. (Original) A tube retainer as claimed in claim 5, wherein the sealing means is an O-ring.
7. (Currently Amended) An assembly including the tube retainer as claimed in ~~of~~ claim 1, ~~wherein said holding clamp is attached to~~ the assembly further including a device, said device having an inlet/outlet port therein for receiving said tube.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a tube retainer as claimed in claim 1, comprising the steps of:
- providing a tube;
 - forming a retention groove in the external surface of said tube, adjacent the open end of said tube; and
 - providing a flat plate and forming a slot in said flat plate to form a clamping plate.
9. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 8, comprising a further step of:
- forming a second seal groove in the external surface of the tube, said second seal groove being formed such that it is suitable for receiving sealing means.
10. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 9, whereby the second sealing groove is formed in the external surface of the tube between the retention groove and the adjacent open end of the tube.
11. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 8, whereby at least one of the retention groove and second seal groove is formed in the external surface by rolling a groove therein.
12. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 8, whereby at least one of the retention groove and second seal groove is formed in the external surface by cutting a groove therein.
13. (Withdrawn) A method of retaining a tube to engage a device comprising:
- forming a retention groove adjacent to an end of the tube;
 - forming a slot in a holding clamp to engage said annular retention groove; and
 - attaching said holding clamp with the tube to the device.
14. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 12, whereby the retention groove is annular.
15. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising forming a second seal groove between said retention groove and said end of said tube for receiving sealing means.

16. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said slot extends from an aperture formed in said flat plate.
17. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 13, whereby the retention groove is annular.
18. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:
forming a second seal groove between said retention groove and said end of said tube for receiving sealing means.